## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PORG, SHUM, GE

SUBJECT: JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES' CALL ON HARTMAN AND VEST

- 1. RABBI MILLER AND TWO OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEW-ISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE CALLED ON HARTMAN AND VEST JUNE 9, PARTLY TO EXPRESS THEIR GROUP'S GRATITUDE TO HARTMAN FOR HIS SUPPORT IN THE FIELD OF JEWISH CLAIMS AGAINST THE GDR, PARTLY TO MEET VEST AND PARTLY TO EXPLAIN WHAT THEY THOUGHT THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE IN THIS CLAIMS AREA.
- 2. MILLER SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FURTHER CONTACT BECONFIDENTIAL

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TWEEN THE CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GDR GROUP SINCE THE ABORTIVE AFFAIR OF THE MILLION DOLLAR OFFER LAST NOVEMBER. AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE THIS SPRING, VIA INTERMEDIARIES IN SWITZERLAND, TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN NAHUM GOLDMAN AND HONECKER BUT THIS HAD PRODUCED NO RESULTS. GOLDMAN WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT ANY SERIOUS SETTLEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE GDR BUT MILLER

SAID HE DID NOT SHARE THIS VIEW. HE THOUGHT THERE HAD TO BE SOME LEVERAGE THAT COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE EAST GERMANS.

- 3. HARTMAN, AFTER REVIEWING THE GENERALLY COOL STATE OF US-GDR RELATIONS, SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE GDR WOULD EVER BE BROUGHT TO ADMIT ANY DEGREE OF CULPABILITY FOR NAZI CRIMES AGAINST JEWS. HE DID NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT A SUM LARGER THAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS MIGHT BE OFFERED BUT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE GDR READINESS TO MAKE A GESTURE, POSSIBLY IN CONNECTION WITH CSCE OR IN OTHERWISE PROMOTING ITS INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. HARTMAN SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE OFFER WOULD BE INCREASED ONLY IF THE GDR WERE CONVINCED THAT MAKING IT WOULD AVOID A LARGER PROBLEM IN US-GDR RELATIONS OR FOR THE GDR'S POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.
- 4. ONE OF THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT THE CLAIMS CONFERENCE WOULD BE MEETING IN AMSTERDAM ON JUNE 21. THAT MEETING WOULD PASS A RESOLUTION PRESSING THE GDR TO REACH A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT. THE CONFERENCE WOULD TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE MESSAGE IS GIVEN WIDE MEDIA COVERAGE IN THE US AND ABROAD. THE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE SOON WHETHER TO GO PUBLIC ON THE GDR RECALCITRANCE, TO BRING TO BEAR ALL THE PRESSURES THAT COULD BE CREATED IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE MEDIA.
- 5. THE JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES CONCLUDED BY ASKING THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE US GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO KEEP UP ITS PRESSURE ON THE GDR IN THE JEWISH CLAIMS AREA. THEY ALSO ASKED TO MEET WITH THE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR AFTER HE IS CONFIRMED TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS. HARTMAN AGREED TO BOTH REQUESTS.

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TAGS: PINT, PORG, SHUM, GC, (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A), (VEST, GEORGE S)

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